

CREATE CA'S ADVOCACY & 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



The future of California's prosperity, well-being, and civic engagement depends on our vision of all students having access to a high-quality, culturally responsive arts education. To ensure all students benefit from arts education's ability to develop 21st-century competencies, social-emotional skills, and civic-mindedness, we must invest in students, strengthen the teacher pipeline, and address the systemic inequities in public education. The following document outlines Create CA's 2025 advocacy and legislative priorities to further our vision.

SUPPORT EFFECTIVE, EQUITABLE, AND TRANSPARENT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROP 28

Create CA supports ensuring the new funds expand arts education for all students

Prop 28 adds The Arts and Music in Schools—Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act to the California Education Code to provide a minimum source for annual funding to “supplement arts education programs” for pupils attending PK–12 public and charter schools.

We support the following:

- Require school districts to certify that Prop 28 funds have not been used to supplant existing spending for arts education at any school and detail in their Prop 28 reports how the funds were used to expand arts educators and programs.
- Require schools to seek input from parents, students, and local arts organizations when determining how Prop 28 funds should be used.
- Direct the California Department of Education to immediately release secondary schools’ arts education course data (data has not been released since 2019), explore how district Prop 28 reports can be integrated into CALPADS, and develop a process for elementary schools to collect data on all arts courses.

SUPPORT A ROBUST, ACCESSIBLE, AND DIVERSE ARTS EDUCATION TEACHER PIPELINE

Create CA supports policies and investments that lower barriers and strengthen arts education teacher pathways

Support the Governor’s Proposed Teacher Preparation and Professional Development Investments

- \$150 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to provide financial assistance for teacher candidates through the new Teacher Recruitment Incentive Grant Program, and an additional \$100 million, one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to extend the timeline of the existing National Board Certification Incentive Program to support National Board Certified teachers to teach and mentor other instructional staff in high poverty schools. In addition, support augmentations to the Golden State Teacher Grant Program.

Support Designating Visual and Performing Arts as a qualified teacher shortage area

- Direct the California Department of Education and Commission on Teacher Credentialing to designate Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) as a qualified teacher shortage area to help potential VAPA teachers access specific financial aid programs and facilitate school districts’ establishment of VAPA teacher residencies.

Support AB 1128 (Muratsuchi) California Student Teacher Support Grant Program

- Existing law mandates the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to set standards for issuing and renewing teaching credentials and for accrediting teacher preparation programs. It also requires teaching credential candidates to complete 600 hours of “clinical practice,” including unpaid student teaching. This bill would establish the California Student Teacher Support Grant Program, contingent on one-time funding, to provide grants to teaching credential candidates to pay them during the required student teaching.

Support AB 1034 (Ávila Farfás) Teacher credentialing: youth mental health.

- Current law mandates the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to set standards for issuing and renewing teaching credentials and to ensure that accredited teacher preparation programs meet these standards. This includes preparing teachers to educate all students. This bill requires that when these standards are next updated, starting January 1, 2026, they must include a requirement for beginning teachers to have a basic understanding of youth mental health. Additionally, current law requires that attaining a preliminary teaching credential involves completing a program with a teaching performance assessment. This bill stipulates that when these assessments are next revised, starting January 1, 2026, they must evaluate a teacher candidate’s knowledge of youth mental health.
- We ask that these new standards cover the connection between arts and mental health. Arts education promotes mental health by providing avenues for expression, creativity, and emotional exploration. Students can enhance their emotional well-being, reduce stress, and develop coping skills through the arts. Research shows that engaging in artistic activities can boost self-esteem, alleviate anxiety, and foster a sense of community and belonging. Overall, integrating arts education into curricula supports academic growth and contributes significantly to mental health and personal development.
- **Proposed Amendment:** “On or after January 1, 2026, the commission shall include a requirement that beginning teachers have a basic understanding of youth mental health, **including, but not limited to, the positive impacts of expression through visual and performing arts and physical activity.**”